



The Examiner states that Thompson and Budike can be combined because both Thompson and Budike disclose energy distribution over extended geographical areas. (Detailed Action, Response to Arguments, page 4.) Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that Thompson discloses a system for providing electrical-power to remote communities widely distributed over an extended geographical area. (Thompson, Abstract.) Further, Thompson discloses a system for an area so remote that the system has fuel tanks with a sixty-thousand gallon capacity sufficient for two-hundred-fifty to four-hundred-fifty days of operation. (Thompson, column 7, lines 35-36.) Thompson addresses a problem that exists in communities that are widely dispersed in a region that lacks a distribution system for power utilities. In contrast to the problems presented to a community in a region that lacks a distribution system for utilities, Budike discloses a multi-utility real-time energy control system through which an energy consumer can monitor multiple sources of different utility types that are readily available. Based on consumption and prevailing market rates the consumer can purchase power from these different sources — e.g., “electricity, steam, gas and other consumable fuels and utility materials.” (Budike, column 7, lines 56-57.)

While Thompson discloses monitoring the power needs of a remote community in an area of limited fuel sources to assure timely replenishment of fuel, Budike discloses a system where the existence of multiple sources of power is readily available. Therefore, Applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Thompson and Budike because the remote community being monitored by Thompson does not have access to the





it is believed that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: August 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

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